

# **Radiation Advisory Board**

## **Minutes**

The Radiation Advisory Board met on Tuesday, December 30, 2003, in the James Madison Building located at 109 Governor St., Room 535, at 9:00 am. The meeting agenda was as follows:

### **Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.**

Khizar Wasti, Ph.D., Director, Division of Health Hazards Control  
(Chairman, representing Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Commissioner)

### **Members present:**

Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D.; Edway R. Johnson; Herman Moore, Jr.; Jane O. Carpenter;  
Robert Toal, D.V.M.; James R. Thornton; and Drexel Nelson Harris.

### **Members absent:**

Mary Ann Turner, M.D.; Ted Sherwin, D.D.S.; and Panos P. Fatouros, Ph.D.

### **Ex Officio Members present:**

John Beers, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, representing J. Carlton Coulter, III; Brett Burdick, Department of Emergency Management, representing Michael Cline; and Ronald Graham, representing the Department of Labor and Industry.

### **Ex Officio Members absent:**

Harry Gregori, Jr., Department of Environmental Quality, representing Dennis Treacy; and Tom Grose representing Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

### **Other Attendees:**

James E. Burns, M.D., M.B.A., Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Programs  
Leslie P. Foldesi, M.S., CHP, Director of Radiological Health Program, Jim deKrafft, Assistant Director, Radiological Health Program; Stan Orchel Jr.; Radiological Health Program X-ray Coordinator; Marie S. Harris, Radiological Health Program, Office Services Supervisor; and Terry Eastman, R.T., FASRT, Technical Director of Radiographic Techniques, Roanoke, VA.

## **I. Overview of Agenda**

Khizar Wasti, Ph.D.  
Minutes of June 1, 2001 meeting were approved.

### ***Management Changes***

Governor Warner appointed three new members to the Radiation Advisory Board on July 29, 2003. The new members are Jane O. Carpenter, Robert Toal, D.V.M., and James R. Thornton.

### ***Revised State Potassium Iodide (KI) Plan***

The state KI plan was revised October 2003 to include distribution of KI to the general public in case there is a radiological release of radio-iodine from either of the two nuclear power stations in Virginia. KI is used to block the thyroid gland from the uptake of radioactive iodine. Until recently, KI was made available only to emergency workers. The State will need to demonstrate implementation of its distribution plan in the next federally evaluated exercise scheduled for July 2004.

### ***Acquisition of equipment and funding for staff training***

The Radiological Health Program received equipment funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The equipment included air pumps, portable gamma spectrum analyzers, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Additional requests that may be funded are satellite telephones, and funding for training.

### ***Status of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Agreement State Participation***

VDH has not been successful in obtaining General Fund appropriations for startup costs associated with the NRC Agreement state program.

### ***Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors Orphan Materials Program***

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) administers the U.S. Department of Energy funds for the disposal of radioactive materials when abandoned radioactive material devices are found and the licensee cannot be located. In these cases the NRC will designate the source as an orphan source and inform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will then dispose of the source and bill the facility or person who last possessed it. In many cases this would impose a financial hardship on the person, company or locality that possessed the device.

Recently a scrap metal dealer in Richmond obtained a licensed device in a returned shipment. The serial number had been removed making it impossible to locate the licensee. The facility requested the State Health Commissioner to enter into an agreement with CRCPD, so that assistance could be received for the disposal of this source. VDH is working with CRCPD to enter into an agreement for the disposal of orphan radioactive materials.

## **II. Presentations**

### **A. Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs (EP&R)**

Robert Mauskapf and Steve Harrison

Bob and Steve provided an overview of the EP&R Program and its role in chemical, biological and radiological emergencies. The EP&R Program has interest in providing more support for working with the Radiological Health Program for radiological emergency response to include staff and field training, upgrading of radiological equipment and participation in local and state exercises. EP&R has reviewed the revised State KI plan. There has also been hospital inquiries regarding planning for radiological incidents.

A reference guide for radiological emergency response was distributed at the meeting. This guide provides basic information on how to manage contaminated patients, defines radiation exposure levels, and provides guidelines for field management and hospitals.

**B. Staff Presentation**      Leslie P. Foldesi, M.S., CHP  
Director of Radiological Health Program

*Note:* The presentation is available on VDH Radiological Health Program's web page for the Radiation Advisory Board:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/rad/RHP-RADBOARD.asp>

**Legislation**

In the year 2001 Legislative Session, House Bill 1903 and an identical Senate Bill 838 were passed. Section 32.1-229.01 *Code of Virginia* was amended to recognize the two national accreditation programs in the private sector, the National Environmental Health Association, and the National Radon Safety Board.

There was no legislation that affected radiological issues in the year 2002 session.

In the 2003 session, there were two bills that passed and were signed into law. House Bill 1524 required radioactive material licensees to report missing radioactive materials to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the State Police. There already exists a regulatory requirement to provide such notice to VDH, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission also informs VDH whenever one of their licensees in Virginia reports a missing source. House Bill 2321 authorized VDH to inspect radon professionals and ensure that radon testing or mitigation complies with EPA protocol or a specific industry standard [American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) Standard, E-2121-02].

**Status of Regulations**

The staff prepared draft regulations to be consistent with the *Suggested State Regulations*, and recent changes implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The State Board of Health approved the draft regulations for the *Radiation Protection Regulations* in the fall of 2002. A Notice of Intent was published in the *Virginia Register* in November 2002, and the agency withdrew the Notice in January 2003 upon request from the Department of Planning and Budget.

The Fee Schedule also underwent a periodic review. VDH received several comments that the fee schedule should be revised.

#### **CRCPD Peer Review**

The Advisory Board members were provided copies of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors' Peer Review conducted in August 2001.

#### **Program Staff Changes**

The following positions were filled in the Radiological Health Program:  
Fiscal year 2002-(Central Office) Radiation Safety Technician (Bob Lawson 8/02)  
Fiscal year 2003-(Northern VA) Radiation Safety Specialist (Douglas Carver 8/03)  
Fiscal year 2003-(Central Office) Radiation Safety Technician (Jim Linduff 9/03)

#### **Other topics presented included:**

Guidance Documents  
Power Plant Exercises  
DEQ/EPA Environmental Data Project  
Responses/Radiological Events  
Enforcement Activities  
Mammography Inspections

### **III. Old Business**

Radiation Advisory Board members discussed with Deputy Commissioner, Jim Burns, M.D., their concerns regarding NRC Agreement State status, the history of the NRC Agreement State Program and the advantages of Virginia becoming an Agreement State.

The Advisory Board members were also concerned that the proposed regulations have not been adopted. Staff will resubmit the draft regulations at the end of the year 2004 session of the General Assembly and work with the Department of Planning and Budget before the Notice of Intent is published.

**Note:** Advisory Board members requested a copy of the proposed regulations and to post them on the VDH web site.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **Home Land Security/Civil Defense - Lee Anthony, Ph.D.**

Dr. Anthony asked what actions VDH was taking to prepare for homeland security and civil defense.

**Image Quality and Exposure Limits** Terry Eastman, R.T., FASRT, Technical Director of Radiographic Techniques, Roanoke, VA

Mr. Eastman presented his concerns regarding the lack of standards for evaluating image quality and setting exposure limits for diagnostic radiographic procedures.

**V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.